(d) how many custodial deaths have taken place in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on May 9, 1994, inter-alia proposes to amend Section 176 Cr. P.C. with a view to providing mandatory inquiry by a judicial or Metropolitan Magistrate into the case of death or disappearance of a person in the custody of the police. In the case of death, examination of the dead body shall be conducted within 24 hours of death.

(d) According to the information available, 31, 49 and 40 incidence of custodial deaths were reported in the country during 1995, 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Muslim Militant organisations in North-East

2389. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sudden spurt in the number of muslim militant organisations in the North-East;

(b) if so, the names of these organisations;

(c) how many such ultras have been arrested; and

(d) what steps are being taken to curb their activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A number of Muslim militant organisations have come up in Assam after 1990. These include:

(i) Muslim United Liberation Front of Assam/Muslim Liberation Army (MULFA/MLA)

(ii) Muslim Liberation Tigers of Assam (MLTA)

(iii) Muslim Security Force (MSF)

(iv) Islamic United Reformation Protest of India (IURPI)

(v) United Muslim Liberation Front of Assam (UMLFA)

(vi) Revolutionary Muslim Commandos (RMC)

(vii) Islamic Liberation Army of Assam (ILAA)

(viii) Islamic Sevak Sangh (ISS)

(ix) Muslim Tiger Force (MTF)

So far 22 suspected MLTA and 2 MULFA militants have been arrested in Assam.

In addition, the following Muslim militant organisations have come up in Manipur :

(i) People's United Liberation Front (PULF)

(ii) North East Minority Front (NEMF)

(iii) Islamic National Front (INF)

(iv) Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup (KYKL-Muslim Wing)

31 PULF, 2 NEMF and 11 INF activists have so far been arrested during 1998 and 1999.

(d) Till now, the Muslim militant organisations have not carried out any violent or militant actions. However, law enforcing agencies are alive to the situation and raids/ operations are being conducted from time to time.

Human Rights abuses in the Country

2390. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India continued to have significant human rights abuses, despite extensive constitutional and statutory safeguards, according to the Annual Human Rights Report of the World, released in washington by the State Department on 27th February, 1999;

(b) whether these problems were acute in Jammu and Kashmir because the terrorist threats had disrupted the judicial system there, as pointed out in above Report; and

(c) if so, what effective steps Government propose to take to resolve human rights problems, indicating their reaction to the contents of the said Report?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The report mentions that India continued to have significant human rights abuses, despite extensive constitutional and statutory safeguards. However, the conclusions arrived at in the report do not give a correct picture as these are based on an arbitrary selection from newspaper reports and unsupported reports and citations.